

The Dungeon Master That Absolutely Won't Work Before Indulging in Laziness

Arc 23 - The 'Kuh, kill me!' Female Knight
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Chapter 262 – Preamble

I fell asleep, woke up, and started to think.

I'd went about patrolling without any particular reason to do so, but it might not have been needed.

There weren't any inquiries from Sia even after me looking around, either. ... Calm down, it's only been a day or two. There's a good chance that the lord is just building up his strength.

Or maybe he's trying to make me feel agitated?

Gah! The heck man. I'll just develop a new dungeon boss to get rid of this feeling.

In truth, it's an idea I've been working on for a while now. I've made weapons using magic tools, but phenomena caused by magic tools are generally stronger when caused by traps. For example, [Water Source] for producing water or [Fire Trap] for producing flames. I can't really use superior traps from the DP catalog since I haven't been using many traps, but they are still completely better than magic tools for what they do.

... Oh? I can customize traps now, I don't think that was there before? Well, it's only about as much as being able to somewhat change its effective range when I set it up... alright, let's finally see if it's possible for us It'll use up quite a bit of DP, but oh well. It should be fine.

I can't set traps up in the Master Room since it's in the Dungeon Core, so I'll do it in the boss room.

First, I'll test to see if I can put a trap onto a golem.

I brought an iron golem over into the boss room and opened the catalog.

... Yep, no can do. I can't choose it as the target to set it up on.

Next: can I set traps up on walls?

... That's normally possible, so I dismantled the iron golem and turned it into and ingot. I then thinned it out and put it onto the wall before trying to see if I could put the trap there.

I'll try it out with [Water Source] first.... ah, maybe I should use [Fire Trap]

instead so I don't flood the room?

Seeing fire come from the dungeon's **wall**, I had the iron roll up into a lid to cover it.

... No luck. I was planning on putting [Flame Traps] into portraits if that worked out, but guess not. Oh well.

Or perhaps it didn't work because the iron golem was its mount? ... Well, maybe I could use this to make a sauna in Succubus Village?

Then, I incidentally noticed that there was an entry labeled [Interior] in the DP catalog.

Taking a look at what it had, I saw various decorations. They're probably what you would ornament the interior of a dungeon with.

I haven't looked at them at all since I've been making all the decorations myself so far, but there's quite a lot huh... Pillars, walls, paintings... wait, could I...?

I selected the statue (100 DP) I saw and bought it.

The statue of a goblin holding its sword threateningly before itself appeared in front of me... It cost five goblins' worth to get a single goblin statue. Normally, there wouldn't be much of a reason to buy it.

But this was a stone goblin statue. I could place traps on it.

Interior items are apparently considered part of the dungeon, so I could put traps on them.

... Seeing a [Fire Trap] spew flame from the chest of a goblin is so surreal.

I used [Create Golem] on the goblin statue and changed its shape. It looked like it would stop activating if I tampered with the spot I installed the trap to, so I altered everything around it into a simple cylindrical shape. It didn't activate, though.

Apparently, it recognized what I did as [Destroying] the [Trap].

And so I tried repairing it with DP.

A moment later, it appeared to be working nicely, spewing flames from where the cylinder was aimed. Oooh~, it's a flamethrower.

Alright, now I know that traps can be used even if I change their shape.

That was a big step forward. For example, now I could put a flamethrower like this into the mouth of a dragon-type golem or something.

... Ah, but it doesn't look like I can install traps on things I've already altered

with [Create Golem]. So annoying. So I can only repair it like that huh? Moreover, the flame pillar would engulf the cylinder if I made it too thin... I'd end up burning my hand if I did that. Note to self: don't.

I tried out customizing the [Fire Trap] by how wide its emission is, but it looks like thirty centimeters is how small it'll go.

I can only do the customization when I first make the traps, so I'll have to think about it all in advance.

And I discovered another problem.

When I took the flamethrower out of the boss room to show it off, it stopped working. However, it went right back to working properly when I brought it back in.

As a result of a few further verification experiments, it turned out that traps would only activate on the same floor they were installed on.

The boss room was separated from the rest of its 'floor' so that I could [Install] more monsters in case of an emergency, leading to it not working when I took it out of the boss room.

I'm thinking that traps are only ever meant to be used as set-it-and-forget-it types and not move around.

It's a bit confusing, but I should just remember that traps can only be used inside the same floor they're made on. Move them away from the floor is banned.

Well, so long as I keep that shortcoming in mind, this means that I can make a new golem model that incorporates traps.

Alright! I'm pumped to make a giant fire-breathing dragon golem, let's do this! Yeah!

I fell asleep. Good morning.

I went back to my room and fell asleep after putting some time into the dragon golem.

I should be able to finish it after one or two weeks of working on it. Either way, no one's even made it to the boss room.

"Ah, Kehma. Morning."

"Morning, Rokuko. Has anyone contacted us from Sia yet?"

“Nope, it’s great.”

Muu.

I get that I did what I wanted, but now I can’t help but feel anxious over when it’ll happen. Thanks to that, I was only able to sleep eight hours last night.

I told him he could use my name for a month, so maybe nothing will happen if I leave them alone for the next month?

In other words—

—I’m going to feel like this for a month?

Give me a break. Seriously?

“Yeah, let’s attack Sia.”

“Wait, Kehma? I don’t get what you’re saying, explain please?”

“Sorry, I’ll explain.”

Attacking them really would be a bit hasty.

But I have to do something from my end, don’t I...?

“... Hmm. What do you think I should do?”

“Leave it alone?”

Rokuko answered like it was someone else’s problem. I mean, that *was* my original intention...

“But I’ll think about it if I’m thinking about it?”

“I don’t get what you’re saying... but in that case, um, how should I say it? Can’t you forget about it if something else comes up?”

Something else, huh... either way, I wouldn’t be able to sleep.

There being nothing going on is always going to be the best...

“Come to think of it, it’s almost time for Wataru to come by, huh.”

“Should we give Nerune a special holiday when he gets here? He’s a good way to get information.”

For some reason, I had a faint, yet certain hunch.

... Wataru was going to be bringing us an extraordinarily unfortunate story.

Chapter 263 – The (Former) “Kuh, kill me!” Female Knight

After a few more days of Sia not contacting us, Wataru arrived.

He brought a woman.

I figured I'd see him after he finished this month's debt repayment... so, in the parlor, sitting next to him opposite of me was a girl sitting upright with a strangely good posture. She had blonde hair and her ears were pointed. Yeah, an elf.

“... So, who's this? Your new lover? You were just playing around with Nerune?”

“No! I'm serious about her!”

Serious huh. Nerune's only interested in researching stuff about magic, she doesn't feel anything like compassion.

I'd tried asking her about what happened with Wataru, but she only replied with something that made me even more confused: [Eh, Wataru...? Oh, oooh~. I know~, tasty~].

I don't really understand what she meant by tasty there, but I do get that she's not looking at him as a love interest at least.

By the way, I also think that Wataru's tasty—as far as income is concerned. He even buys rice.

“This girl is the daughter of an acquaintance, umm, could you introduce yourself?”

“Yes! I am the eldest daughter of my esteemed father Dyne Kukkorō, my name in Shikina Kukkorō! I am a knight from the Fourth Chivalric Knight Order of the Raverio Empire... or at least... I was...”

She was so lively there at the start, but ended weakly. Seeing as how it's past tense, I guess she was discharged?

“So, what's this former Knight-sama doing here?”

“Well, in truth, I’d like Kehma-san to train Shikina-chan. I mean, you’re a bit underhanded yeah?”

“What’s with you calling me underhanded? How rude.”

“No no, I was complimenting you. Shikina-chan here had to resign from the chivalric order because she was *too* honest.”

She was so honest that she had to resign from being a knight? What kind of rotten chivalry is that... ah, so it’s Haku-san’s eh?

“... How do you fight if you’re too honest? It turns into a weakness, she was bested in a duel against the First Chivalric Knight Order’s captain and was forced to resign. It’s not like the whole organization is corrupt though!”

The heck... wait, First Chivalric Order’s captain? If I recall, isn’t that Sally-san? Yep, even it rotting wouldn’t be strange.

“Which is why I thought she should be a bit more unfair—underhanded, I mean. I think that she’d do well learning some tricks but she’s just so honest that it’s a bit hard. So then when I told her about you, Kehma-san, she said she really wanted to learn from you.”

“You’re better off leaving the knights, if you stay you’ll just get defeated by some orc and turned into a nursery—is what she told me. But then she said that I could go back if I learned how to be underhanded! **SO!** Please be my teacher, Kehma-dono!”

“... I really don’t get why I’m getting brought into this though.”

“Everything near Kehma-san is polluted to some degree or another... hmm, maybe it’s more like they *get* polluted?”

Oi. You didn’t have to correct yourself.

“What’s with you treating me like some kind of poison? It’s annoying, either you start paying interest on your debt or you buy double the amount of rice. Your choice.”

“See, Kehma-san’s the kind of person that can say that kind of stuff like it’s nothing.”

“Yes! That is exactly what I’m lacking the most!”

“Alright, I’m doubling your debt.”

“Wait, wait wait! Forgive me, I’ll buy double the rice!”

“Oh well, guess I’ll let you off the hook.”

Thanks for your patronage.

“Kehma-san, you talk like that, but you’re kind. Please see what you can do about this girl’s problem.”

“No, that’s something else entirely.”

“If the problem’s about a tuition fee, I can provide two gold coins per month as well as food expenses.”

“It’s not about the money.”

Two gold coins was basically around two million yen, so that was an attractive offer.

But we have a secret here—the dungeon, I can’t take on too many people, the less the better.

... The two part-timers, you say? Well, they’re basically already people related to dungeons.

“Is there anything you can do, Kehma-san? Could you do it for me?”

“Why would I do it for you? You’re basically just an annoyance at this point...”

“Please, Kehma-dono, I will do anything!”

“Hmm?”

She said that she’d do anything.

I looked at Shikina once more. A blonde elf with a full bust and nice thighs. Supple legs. White socks that go up to her knees. And leather boots that look a bit stuffy. I wonder, did she walk here?

... Anything, huh~? Anything~, hooh~, hmmm~

“Hmm, anything, you say? To what limit does that offer go?”

“There is no limit! I would do this and that, as well as that and this!”

“Could you be specific, then?”

“D-do you intend for me to say... say something so embarrassing, Master!?”

“Hmm? You said you’d do anything, that includes speaking. Be sure to tell me in a big, loud voice I can hear you properly with.”

“T-that’s—alright! Then I will say it!”

Then, with a **very** loud voice, Shikina said [Exactly] what she meant.

“It’s alright even if you OOOO my XXXX, even YYYY in my VVVV if you desire,

no, rather I would desire it! Furthermore—!”

And what she said all had to do with R-18 things.

I think it's safe to say that what she said froze my brain from hearing it said so directly. The shame easily shaved a few seconds off my life.

“—and if Kehma-dono tells me to I would even lay with a goblin! I would do it with a face like I won't want to under the guise of being ordered but I would definitely feel a faint arousal from it!! I would eventually XXX its OOO out of my own want to do so!!!”

“STOP! You don't need to continue!”

“Ah—are you sure!? I-I still have a ways to go until I reach my **climax!**”

“Please shut up, please!”

“Understood!”

Shikina, closing her mouth, was breathing heavily with a flushed face, looking almost as if she wanted to say: [I finished~].

Seeing that, Wataru was grinning from ear to ear.

“So, Kehma-san. You have to be her master now that you've made her go that far, yeah? She may not look it but she is the daughter of a pretty influential noble, so it might be bad if you don't~”

“You... that's why you didn't stop her? Rather, wouldn't it work out if she just stuck with you?”

“Hahahah, I'm earnest about Nerune-san, I can't have another woman with me. I also have my work as a hero, Shikina-chan would definitely die if I brought her with me. Besides, it's because of your influence that I turned out like this, Kehma-san. It'd obviously be better for her to be closer to the source, right? Right?”

“... Dammit. Alright, I give it! But for being such a burden, I'm charging you five gold a month!”

“Good, negotiation completed.”

Even though I'd added an extra three gold into the demand, Wataru just smiled and placed the gold coins on the table. You planned on paying that much from the start, didn't you?

... Haah. Oh well. The one who said how much was me and he did pay it. I'll just have to keep my word.

“Isn’t this great, Shikina-chan? Make sure to call Kehma-san ‘Master’ from now on.”

“Yes! Thank you very much, Wataru-sensei! I look forward to learning from you, Master Kehma!”

Immediately after Shikina bowed, Rokuko burst into the room we were in with an amazing force.

Rokuko’s face was red, did she hear that embarrassing stuff from a bit ago?

“Kehmaaaaaaaa! I need to talk to you!!”

“What a coincidence, I need to talk to you too.”

Now then, how should I start explaining... yeah, I’m getting a headache.

Chapter 264 – Guess We’re Having Some Duels?

... Come to think of it, I should make the dungeon go even deeper, shouldn't I? Let's make a haniwa, a haniwa, I say!

I started thinking about that in attempt to escape reality. I wonder if, in my attempt to do so, I instinctively started thinking about ways to strengthen my shut-in lifestyle.

“So Kehma, you don't really, umm, want to assault me or anyone with a goblin or something like that, right?”

“Obviously, she just went off and said that herself.”

“Sir! I did not! Master told me to say it!”

“Oh shut up, I get why you were fired from the knights.”

“Sir! I will be silent and not say anything I don't need to!”

“... Haaah, well alright. I trust Kehma.”

And so I was able to quickly clear up the misunderstanding with Rokuko. Thanks for trusting me.

“So, who's? Did something troublesome come along? Wataru, what's the meaning of this?”

“Oh, nice, you didn't ignore me. Weeeell, to be honest, this girl here's my acquaintance's daughter and I'm wanting Kehma-san to train her. It is Kehma-san, after all. Rokuko-san, you think Kehma-san's amazing too yeah?”

“Eh? Yeah, that's Kehma-san for you.”

“Kehma-san is so amazing you can't help but feel like relying on him right?”

“Well, that's Kehma-san for you. Fufufu.”

Rokuko started to take pride in it, like he was talking about her. I do feel like he's cheating me, but I'll just keep quiet and see what happens since her accepting me taking on the girl as an apprentice is convenient. Man, Wataru's gotten pretty good at this too.

“Oh well then I guess, we can house her in the inn... though she's not to go into the Village Chief's house, it'd put Kehma's chastity at stake.”

“Isn't it great, Shikina-chan? We got Rokuko-san's permission too!”

“Sir! Thank you so much, Rokuko-dono!”

Looks like their discussion wrapped itself up.

I decided to introduce the newbie to everyone else.

Rokuko went to her room after saying that she was going to make a new shift table incorporating Shikina and Wataru headed off to get in the hot spring, so neither of them were present.

Rei, Kinue-san, and Nerune were all currently working, so I put off introducing her to them... and thankfully, everyone else was already gathered in the backyard.

When I went there, Meat and Setsuna seemed to have just finished having a practice duel and were accepting towels and water bottles from Ichika and Nayuta.

“Oh, Goshujin-sama. Ya come to check out the trainin’? Or maybe ya came to do somethin’ indecent~?”

“Why would you think that...”

“Cause I heard that passionate scream a bit ago, wonder what that was about? Hmm?”

Meat nodded deeply, following up on Ichika’s remarks.

... Ah, so it was audible outside after all? Well, I guess I realized that after Rokuko came bursting in.

“That was just a misunderstanding. Uhh, well, it turned into us getting a new resident. Wataru’s acquaintance’s daughter.”

“Sir! I am my excellent father’s, Dyne Kukkorō’s, eldest daughter, Shikina Kukkorō! I have become Master Kehma’s apprentice! Pleased to meet you!”

“... She said that she’d do anything, so I’m going to have her work at the inn. Please teach her how to after this.”

“Heeh, anythin’?”

“When I asked her exactly what she meant, it turned into what you heard earlier... Ichika, please stop grinning like that, I don’t plan on doing any of that.”

“Whaaat, I thought you’d finally got some interest in someone other than Rokuko-sama or Meat-senpai though!”

I don’t get what you’re talking about...

“By the way, did you two just have a duel? I would like to take part too!”
“Ooh! You talk the talk, can you walk the walk!? I’ll take you on then! You use a weapon? We have wooden swords.”

As our resident battle junkie, Setsuna pounced on her offer like a wolf. She sure is pretty energetic after just finishing a duel with Meat.

“I will accept your offer and use a wooden sword. I will show you a Raverio Imperial Knight’s swordsmanship! I may look as I do... but I was once a knight, I am confident in my skill!”
“I won’t hold back then!”

Setsuna took a stance. Standing opposite her, Shikina held up her wooden sword and did the same.

“I’m coming!”
“Yep, me too—oh right, I’m Setsuna, heya.”

Even though the duel already began, Shikina was quickly defeated.
“I-I admit defeat... I cannot move my arms nor my legs.”
“How should I put it...? You’re way too formal, way too easy to fight.”
“I have heard that very thing for a long time, it is my pride!”

No, that’s not a compliment...
“Setsuna-dono is much too strong. I may look as I do, but I have been told that I have the potential to be around B-Rank.”

“Oh? Why not try fighting me next then? I can only fight at a C-Rank level though.”
“Yes, please! Excuse me, what was your name?”
“She’s Nayuta, my voluptuously boing boing little sister!”
“My best regards, Setsuna-dono’s voluptuously boing boing little sister Nayuta-dono!”
“... I’m voluptuously boing boing...?”

The next one she challenged was Nayuta. I didn’t think she was much of a fighter, but I guess she can? That’s a bit unexpected.
By the way, nobody denied Setsuna’s claim of her sister being *voluptuously boing boing*.

... The result was Nayuta's perfect victory.
She took a distance from her opponent, threw stones, sand, kept mercilessly aiming for her eyes, used magic, as well as use other sneaky and cruel methods, resulting in her perfect victory.

"Ugwooooh, my eyes, my eeeeeyes!"
"Underhanded. As expected of Nayuta, underhanded. Heal this person's wounds, [Healing]."
"Aaah, phew. Thank you, Master... I-I should have been able to..."
"Yeah, you could have won if you were able to properly exhibit your potential."
"That is right! I have the potential!"

No, she's saying that she defeated you that soundly because she kept you from doing anything.

"Maybe I'd be a good opponent? Ah, I'm Ichika, yo."
"Sir! Please do!"

And thus it was a fight against Ichika this time.
The fight went on with them feeling like their strength was evenly match.
But in the end, Ichika came out on top.

"I-I admit defeat..."
"Phew. It's amusin' ya got caught by that feint. I think ya'd get stronger if you could handle 'em."
"Father said that to me many times! Feints are my eternal homework!"

No, that means you're supposed to overcome them.
I used [Healing] on her again, just in case.

"I will bring shame upon the imperial knights if I can't... th-then I just need to win at least once, right! Tiny one! Have a duel with me!"
"Okay. Fine."
"I will not go easy on you!"

It goes without saying, but the result of her duel with Meat ended in Meat's complete victory.

"Whyyyy!?"
"No, Kuro-chan here's so strong she can win against me maybe three out of

every five bouts now.”

“Haha, Senpai’s kiddy looks made ya underestimate her huh?”

Eh, Meat’s gotten strong enough to win against Setsuna? Kids grow up so fast. I pat Meat gently on the head. Her ears and tail wiggled.

“W-wasn’t Setsuna-dono the strongest one here?”

“Eh? If you want to talk about the strongest person among us, that’d be Village Chief Kehma. I lost against him and have never won.”

“What!? As expected of Master!”

We agreed that that was a draw...

Chapter 265 – (A Story That Doesn't Really Progress)

“For me to be the weakest...”

Having been thoroughly defeated in the duels, Shikina seemed to have completely lost confidence in herself.

I don't think I can help her when it comes to combat, so I'll leave it to those four. She'll get stronger sooner or later just by dueling them.

And if she doesn't, I dunno. I became her master, but uhh, I wasn't told what to do.

In other words, if I feel like it, I can just insist I'm the sleeping master and stay asleep!

“What, you don't have to be strong. You came to me to learn, didn't you?”

“Now that you mention it, that's true!”

And she quickly pepped back up. Her ability to be so positive is a little enviable.

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A little while later, I introduced her to Rei and the others.

She was surprised to see Neru's doll (a golem possessed by the ring succubus) sitting at the counter, but she was able to greet her.

I was relieved that she didn't assault her right off the bat for being a monster.

“Nerune-dono and Neru-dono have similar names, I might mix them up!”

It looks like Shikina is the type of person to say whatever's on her mind.

I guess that's just another reason why she was forced to resign from being a knight.

“By the way, Master... Will Shikina-san be another body pillow? It's not as though you've ever called for us, though...”

According to Rei, the dining room also heard Shikina's shouts from earlier. ... In other words, it appears that most of the inn's guests heard it. Uwaah, there's going to be more rumors now. Like the Brute Village Chief or Erotic Village Chief.

“... I don’t understand what you’re talking about. Besides, you know that with the way you said that, it could be taken as you and the others wanting to be body pillows right?”

“Ah, no, umm. Right, that’s not what I, uhh... It might be presumptuous of me, but I think the order—umm, her rank is important.

Wait, she really wants to be my body pillow?

... The top rank becomes my body pillow? What the heck lead to that, oi. It’s just that I’ve known Meat for a while and she’s convenient, it has nothing to do with body pillows.

“Master Kehma, Rei-dono and the others certainly wish to be body pillows! Rei-dono wishes to be embraced and she indeed has aura of a good girl. Kinue-dono seems soft and fluffy, as well as have the smell about her of freshly baked bread. Nerune-dono is both simple and cute... however, she smells of medicine. And since Neru-dono smells of iron, you may be able to have fun dreaming of a battlefield. You may be crushed if she turns over in bed, though.”

“You can shut up now?”

“Sir! I will now shut up and not say anything that I shouldn’t!”

You’ve already said plenty enough... seriously.

“Although it may be a misunderstanding on my part, I generally don’t intend on using anyone but Meat as my body pillow.”

“Yes, I understand.”

Rei suddenly bowed her head. By the way, I used [generally] there because Rokuko sometimes comes along.

After the partner declaration thing, she sometimes comes bringing the godly comforter with her.

But I’m afraid of that divine retribution, so I don’t use the godly comforter. I just stroke it and enjoy the best touch sensation in the world... please spare me, please...

Rokuko always tells me it’s OK because we’re partners, but she doesn’t have any basis for it.

“Come to think of it, Nerune-dono is Wataru-sensei’s sweetheart, isn’t she? She has a simple cuteness to her! I understand why Wataru-sensei likes her.”

“Heeeh~, is that so~?”

“It is! There have been many instances of self-proclaimed ladies always attempting to dress up for him in the capital. He has had me make appearances to act as repellants against them.”

“I see~, Shikina-san, please tell me more about that~”

“Understood!”

Ooh? Is Nerune actually... interested in Wataru?

No, she’s probably just thinking about ways to extort information from him.

Nerune looks like a pure country girl, but she’s actually a black-bellied miss.

It’ll definitely give us new information on the imperial capital and the hero. Aah, so good.

Like that, Wataru, having come to enjoy the hot spring, was quickly toyed around with by Nerune.

Thanks for the meal.

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“Haah, today was incredibly enlightening...”

“Really? That’s good.”

At the end of the day, I was drinking tea in the inn’s employee lounge.

It had a Japanese layout with a kotatsu over tatami mats, so it was cosy.

Well, now’s not the time of year for a full kotatsu, so it was just a thin sheet. It was still a kotatsu, though. The heating function itself was off, of course. Maybe I should make it have a cooling function, too?

“Guess it’s around time for me to head back to my room and get some sleep.”

“Oh, you are going to bed? I shall accompany you.”

And just as I got out from under the kotatsu, Shikina did the same.

“... Huh? Why?”

That’s strange, Shikina should already have a room of her own prepared, what’s she saying?

“It is so that I can study each and every one of Master’s actions by sleeping in the same room...”

“It troubles me that you say that so naturally...”

“But that teeny—Kuroinu-dono is alright?”

With that, Shikina pointed to Meat, who was standing next to me. Meat is alright, she’s Meat. She is my super important body pillow, after all.

“Moreover, Kuroinu-dono herself said that she’s gotten stronger since she began to sleep with you...!”

It’s true that Meat’s definitely gotten stronger since last year, but there’s no causal relationship between that and her sleeping with me... there isn’t, right? It’s just thanks to the clothes golem, right?

I glanced over to Meat. She, either due to knowing what I was thinking or not, nodded.

Yep, she definitely doesn’t know what I want to say.

“Rather, Rokuko said that you aren’t to enter the Village Chief’s House. Give it up.”

“Sir! Come to think of it, she did say that. I shall give it up!”

Shikina returned to the room prepared for her when I said that. Her ludicrous honesty and obedience made her give it up so quickly that it felt almost like she was scheming something.

... By the way, she really did give up. The next day came without anything happening.

Chapter 266 – Wanna Go to the Dungeon?

“Master Kehma! What will we be doing today!?”

“We’ll be diving into the dungeon.”

I decided to try out taking Shikina into the dungeon in hopes that she’d become the person I can push whatever jobs Gozoh brings to me about heading into the dungeon.

By the way, I’m bringing along Meat as well, making us a three-person party. It’s just a stroll for Meat and I though.

“This is the first time I’ll be going into a dungeon! I have exterminated monsters on many occasions, though!”

“That so? Well, make sure to keep an eye out for traps.”

“Yes, of cou—I sprained my ankle!”

Oi. I just told you.

Helping Shikina out of the pitfall trap, I used [Healing] on her.

“Could you not get caught by a trap immediately after I tell you not to...?”

“I am ashamed. I wouldn’t be hurt like this if I had my magic sword.”

“Magic sword? They can have functions as convenient as that?”

“My beloved sword, Sion, has the effect of being able to negate damage.”

Eh, isn’t that game breaking?

“Why not use it if it’s that useful?”

“So I can use it!? I’ll use it then.”

With that, Shikina unsheathed the sword at her waist.

It was a steel sword. Its handle was fitted with a tear-shaped blue magic stone. So this is Sion, then?

“I have been told to avoid using it if at all possible.”

“Does it have a huge downside to it? Like you take all of the damage it negates later on?”

“Nothing like that. It’s just that my clothes take the damage when I am hit. Using my sprained ankle from before as an example... I’d have holes in my

socks.”

So in other words, the sword transfers the damage to her clothing.
... The f*ck is that magic sword!?

“Also, if I take a fatal hit it causes me to immediately become naked.”

“What a powerful magic sword, very powerful...”

“It certainly is useful, but it is not a sword a father would want his daughter to use.”

Obviously...!

“Well, when you’re on the battlefield, I’d just end up dead if I worried about being naked, so I use it freely!”

“Y-yeah. Just be careful, yeah? Ah, hold up, that door’s—”

“Huh? Uwaaah!?”

Stabbed by a sword that popped through the door, a portion of her clothing disappeared. Even though it was her upper body that took the hit, what took the damage was her skirt.

... It’s true that it keeps her body unharmed, but isn’t she going to steadily run out of clothes at this rate?

“... Shikina, stay behind Meat and I. Meat, please teach her about these traps.”

“I-I will. Thank you, senpai.”

“Okay. First off—”

Then, even with Meat’s guidance, one thing lead to another and she got caught in another trap, dealing serious damage to her skirt.

“How’d that even happen?”

“... It happened while I was helping her, I’m sorry.”

“... Kuh, please don’t look so intently, Master!”

Fidgeting around, Shikina hid her underwear with her hands.
Even Meat looked apologetic... no, Meat, you did well. It’s her fault for getting caught in a trap, not yours.

“Well, hide your underwear at least. Here, use this.”

“Uuu, thank you. But Master, I don’t mind if it’s you peeking.”

Sure, seeing her thighs peeking through her tattered skirt is charming, but I'm not starving for it or anything.

What I pulled out from my satchel (what I secretly bought with DP) and passed to Shikina was a cloth to tie around her waist.

"Master is well prepared... it's almost as if you knew that my skirt would be torn!"

"Don't say something so weird. I only brought the cloth in case we had to bandage an arm or use as a tourniquet or something. Rather, why don't you bring spare clothes if yours break so easily?"

"... Oh! That's a good idea!"

Idiot. That's the obvious thing to do if you're worried about your clothes breaking.

"As long as I have replacement clothes, I can take as much damage as I want! As expected of Master! I'll immediately buy more when we return."

"Yeah, just make sure to buy old, secondhand stuff. Think of them as your remaining lives."

"Remaining lives! What an accurate phrase! In other words, so long as I have remaining lives, I don't need to worry about traps!"

"No, you shouldn't fall for traps in the first place. Pay attention to them!"

With that, I noticed two goblins somewhat near us. She was defeated in all of the duels yesterday, so let's see if we can't raise her spirit by having her fight off goblins, the representatives of all small fry monsters.

"Oi, there are goblins coming from over there. Can you take them yourself?"

"Sir! I can!"

Urging the goblins over to become sacrifices, I urged Shikina to prepare for a fight.

The two goblins soon arrived.

"I'm coming! Deeeeryaaa!"

"Gobu—!?"

The first goblin was cut cleanly in two, beautifully even. The second goblin, seeing that, brandished its club.

“Tooooooryaaaa!”

The goblin blocked her sword with its club.
However, Magic Sword Sion broke through it and cut through the goblin—or not.

A weirdly disagreeable sound echoing out, Shikina took a step back.

“Guh!? Dang!”

“Oi, weren’t you supposed to have the potential for a B-Rank? What are you struggling against a goblin for?”

“Th-this is nothing! Seeeya!”

Following the sound of metal passing through flesh, the goblin’s head fell off.
Its headless body fell to the floor.

“... I won!”

“Yeah... So, what was that strange sound? It sounded like it came from your sword.”

“Ugu. It’s as you say. It may have cracked from the battle just now...”

When I took a look, there was a crack about half the sword’s width from hitting the club.

“Yes, it will break after just one or two more full-strength swings.”

“That’s... even though it’s such a great magic sword. Unfortunate.”

“Really. I won’t be able to use it until tomorrow, now.”

... Hm?

“It repairs?”

“Sion breaking happens a lot. It will repair so long as I re-sheathe it.”

The heck. It can even repair itself? So cool... wait.

“You said that sword breaks often?”

“Yes. It will break as soon as I attempt to cut through something too hard, so I have to make sure it slices through cleanly.”

Is it made of glass or something?

Now all I can think about is her equipment growing tattered and her sword breaking with a [Shiing], leaving her unhurt due to its effect.

“... So that means iron golems and the like are basically your worst match-up?”

“Iron’s alright if I cut through it. Personally, I find goblin clubs to be much more difficult to handle. Rather, golems are easy. It’d break if I ever made a mistake though.”

She just said that cutting through iron is easy. What.
As an aside, it sounds like Meat’s able to cut through iron as well. You two are amazing.

Chapter 267 – Yeah, Let’s Go to the Dungeon

“Right, so why don’t you dual wield swords?”

“Two, swords...!? I would be twice as strong!”

Simple girl, two-sword style isn’t so simple. There’s various matters to it, like physical strength.

But just to have her try it, I lent her the golem blade that was my reserve weapon.

However, it didn’t work out well when she tried swinging it.

“Hmm, I’m still not used to it. Fighting with just one sword is ingrained in me... ah.”

During one of her swings, the golem blade broke in half. It was practically new, but it just suddenly happened... is it one of Sion’s effects?

Looks like two-sword style’s impossible for her. Sion seems to be a rather jealous magic sword.

It’d probably break anything that doesn’t have [Indestructible] or something similar.

“I-I broke Master’s magic sword...!”

“Yeah. Don’t worry about it though. I’ll bill you for that separately.”

“Y-you’re demanding money for it even though you just said to not worry!?”

“You’re rich, it’s not like you need to be frugal.”

“In that case, I-I’ll pay with my body!”

The moment Shikina declared that, Meat nonchalantly stood between Shikina and I.

“No.”

“Umm... senpai? Why?”

“No.”

“It is my burden to bear, I cannot trouble my house!”

“No.”

“... M-Master...!”

I patted Meat on the head and poked Shikina on the forehead.

“Don’t sell your body so cheaply. I’ll let you off until you’re successful in your career. If you don’t want to trouble your house, make sure to compensate me yourself.”

“Y-yes!”

“Meat, you have no complaints either, yeah?”

“... Goshujin-sama.”

“Hmm? What’s up?”

“If you make a move on someone, I think there is already someone you should do so for first.”

I-is she talking about Rokuko? She is my partner, after all.

After that, we went hunting for an iron golem for Shikina to carry back under the guise of training.

“[Body Enhancement]—! Fuuuunu!”

I honestly expected it to be impossible for her to carry back the human-sized lump of iron, but she was able to shoulder its weight through the help of her skill. She had to re-cast it every thirty seconds though.

Even Gozoh, a dwarf, has to use a cart. Skills are amazing.

... Maybe it’s also possible that Shikina’s simplicity is amazing?

“Well, this and that happened, but we figured out that it’ll be useful for us to acquire a massive amount of clothing. Also, I should be able to push off Gozoh’s iron golem hunting to Shikina.”

“Hmm.”

Rokuko came to my room, so I told her about what happened today.

By the way, Shikina collapsed out of exhaustion after bringing the iron golem back out of the dungeon.

As expected, using the [Body Enhancement] skill in rapid succession like that was hard on her body. I asked Ichika about it, she said that normally it’s a bad thing to not allow for some cooldown time. I decided to let her rest for the day.

“Hey, Kehma. When you, umm, when you saw Shikina’s clothes tear up... y-you didn’t get excited, right?”

“Nope, not at all. She doesn’t have an ounce of seductiveness to her at all, unfortunately. Even though the base materials are so nice...”

Yeah. Blonde elf, (former) female knight, boobs, butt, and great legs... even though they're all so good, her mouth ruins it all.
She'd be cute if she just shut up.

I took another look at Rokuko.
Blonde hair, a doubly tasty existence for being able to be big despite being a loli right now, white knee socks going up her legs, and well-shaped feet. She even has a cute red tint on the sole of her foot (important).
By the way, what I like about feet—the soles in particular—is the [Padding] portion. The place that looks like tiny meatballs on cats and dogs.
I love rounded toes and the plump area right where they meet the foot—ah. I got caught up by the seeing them up so close. Got off topic there... I really can't overstate how squishy and great they look.

“Rokuko also has some great materials~”
“What, so I have something you don't like as well...? Out with it.”
“No, not really, Rokuko.”

Honestly, I'm not dissatisfied at all. She's adorable and I don't dislike her slightly foolish personality.
She's also a straightforward, hardworking person. Her good points have been increasing lately, too.
There's a difference in our lifespans, but that just means she'd look young for my entire life yeah? I'd feel guilty for dying first, but my time will come when it comes.

And above all, she's said that she likes me.
Yep, to be honest, I like Rokuko too.

... However, she has a super scary Onee-san who comes as a package deal.
I'm pretty sure that Haku-san will be watching me so long as I'm inside the empire.
In that case, it might be a good idea for me to leave the country. I've also had Wakoku on my mind for a while.

“Hey, Rokuko... want to go on a trip to another country this time?”
“Eh, Kehma? Are you alright? Do you have a fever? Have you been sleeping?”
“... Is me saying something like that so strange?”

“Yeah! Kehma, you don’t even leave your bed if you can avoid it. There’s no way you’d say something like going to another country without a good reason.”

A smile appeared on my face. She reeeeeeally gets me.

“Right, maybe I’m feeling a bit off because of that stupid elf. Maybe I’ll turn in for the day.”

“Ah, want to use the Godly Comforter then? I can come too if it’s right now.”

“Using it without you there is scary...”

By the way, I tried out having a goblin use the godly comforter on its own as an experiment. It dried up and died.

Even though Rokuko said that it’d be alright so long as she gave permission. According to her, she said that she didn’t want anyone other than me to use it... but it’s so dangerous that I don’t want to use it so easily.

“Hey, could we sleep together today?”

“... Separate beds. Bring your own.”

“By the way, Kehma, please tell me about what that OOO thing the elf said is~”

“Mmm, don’t say that word, it’s vulgar. Particularly in front of Haku-san, that’s definitely a no.”

If you really want to know about it, ask Ichika... No, I might get killed because of Ichika then? Rokuko, please stay pure, please.

Chapter 268 – The Waitress and a Secret

Today, Shikina was waiting tables in the dining room.

Can this disappointing elf actually do her job properly and take the shifts Rokuko set for her? I had my doubts about that, so I decided to observe her through Menu-san's monitor function.

"Thank you for waiting!"

With a bang, Shikina placed a set meal on the table.

Seeing that, Ichika, the one working together with her as her teacher, drew an eyebrow.

"C'mon Shikina, would it hurt to do it a bit more carefully? Yer not doin' it right at all."

"Sir! Understood!"

With that, she placed the next one down carefully.

In fact, she did it so carefully that it took her almost thirty seconds to put the dishes on the table ever-so-soundlessly.

"Slow! Do it faster! Do it carefully *and* quickly!"

"Sir! Understood!"

With that, she alternated between going too slow and too hard back and forth until finally settling into doing it with just the right mix of both.

"... Alright! Don't forget how ya did that!"

"Sir! Thank you very much, instructor!"

Shikina spoke and saluted her.

The guest adventurers all started to clap for some reason. I guess they see Shikina giving it her all at being a waitress favorably.

"Maaan, how cute. Ya got a boyfriend?"

"I-I don't have a boyfriend, but I am Master Kehma's apprentice!"

"An elf huh? Pretty rare around these parts, where'd ya come from?"

"The imperial capital! I came to be Master Kehma's apprentice!"

"You got a nice ass there, I wanna slap it around."

“The only person who can slap me around is Master Kehma!”

Shikina even answered the adventurers’ questions with her all.

“The Village Chief again, eh?”

“I know, right? All of the village’s beauties flock to Kehma-san.”

“At least share one of them with us...”

And so some hate got directed toward me. The elf’s just saying all that on her own, cut it out.

Besides, there’s that Guild Receptionist-san if you want a beauty, so it’s not like they’re all just going for me.

“Ooooh? Dear customer, ya sure ya should be sayin’ that? There’s female adventurers too.”

“They all got men though!”

“How ’bout doin’ what Roppu’s veteran group does? They’re makin’ a name for themselves for training newcomers, so if ya teach some new girls ya might just get to kiss ’em.”

“... But wouldn’t they still be vigilant against people sayin’ they want to teach ’em?”

Ichika grinned.

“Which! Is! Why! Ya take a commission for training newbies from the guild! They should have a bit of confidence in ya if it’s done through the guild. Well, ya’ll have to actually do the job but then ya getta be a cool senior adventurer to ’em... yeah?”

” !! ”

“I’m... going to go take a commission, be back in a bit.”

“Oi, I’m not about to let ya get a head start on me!”

“Have fun~, come again~”

After listening to Ichika, several of the adventurers who were lounging about the dining room stood up and ran out without even finishing their food.

A certain female adventurer (with a boyfriend) spoke to Ichika.

“Hey, Ichika-san. The new adventurer training commissions you mentioned, what’s the chances they actually get put in charge of a new girl?”

“I wonder~? Those commissions usually get assigned to people the same sex, so I guess it’ll just depend if there’s an uneven number? But there’s been a looooot of newbies comin’ recently~, maybe they’ll hit it big and win~”

“So how much is the guild paying you for referrals?”

“That’s a secret~”

Ichika grinned at her with a toothy smile. It looks like she just made a profit.

“Instructor, what did she mean about referrals?”

“I set up a thing with ’em to get people to do the training commissions for a small fee... ah, keep this secret from Goshujin-sama! Kay?”

“I understand, sir!”

Ichika, just when did you set up that advertising agreement?

Well, it’s not like I really mind her trying to earn some pocket money. She’ll probably just use it all on slots and food anyway.

So with all that, it looks like Shikina’s actually able to work as a waitress, but can she protect Ichika’s secret?

Note that I’d told Ichika to tell Shikina some secret and have her keep quiet about it to me.

As Shikina will be living with us for a while, her ability to keep a secret is something I’m wanting to confirm.

I need to know how much I have to hide from Shikina about the dungeon. Well, I don’t exactly intend to tell her the secret even if she’s able to keep it, but it’s a matter about whether I’ll have to refrain from using the menu in the inn’s hallways. And I guess it’ll affect how we handle things if she finds out?

I called Shikina over to the lounge and asked her for a report of what she did today.

“Hey, Shikina. Is there something you’re hiding from me?”

“Something that I’m hiding?”

Shikina inclined her head and put her fingers to her lips.

“Umm, not really... oh, right. My panties today are white! Do you want to take a look?”

Saying that, Shikina unhesitatingly flipped up her skirt.

Yep, they're white. Disappointing elf is disappointing.

"That's not what I mean. Like if Ichika were keeping something from me... for instance."

"Oh yeah, I didn't report it because she said that it was a secret, but she told me something about referral fees!"

Shikina spilled the beans all too quickly.
She didn't even try to hide it. What a talkative mouth she has.

"... Didn't Ichika tell you to not say anything?"
"She did say that, but not going against your superior's orders is common sense."

"Wasn't Ichika your superior?"
"You are the owner of authority here, Master Kehma. Therefore, Master Kehma's word is law."

I see, so she goes by rank.
For Shikina, everything's divided by rank. You follow those above you.
She's like a dog.

"By that standard, who is the topmost rank for you?"
"Sir! I have sworn my loyalty to my country, so that would be the emperor!"
"So if I told you a secret... and if the emperor ordered you to tell them, you would?"
"Sir! It is as you say!"
"If the emperor told you to kill civilians, would you?"
"Sir! I would kill them!"

Seriously? You could've hesitated at least a little.
That even causes me to pull back a little.

"Incidentally, every knight in the imperial knight orders are of the same heart! An imperial knight places orders above even friends and family."
"... Heeh? Well, you're not exactly a knight right now though."
"M-my heart is still that of a knight!"

Yeah, I know. I have to hide everything related to the dungeon from Shikina.
By the way, I recall that there was a guy who tried to destroy the dungeon core despite knowing it would go against imperial orders. He was taken care of in the

end, but there's no way they're all as united as Shikina said.

... At the very least, I should teach her enough so that she can keep secrets from those above her.

Right now she's no different from a golem, unable to think about anything for herself—no, a golem's actually better. A golem wouldn't say something better left unsaid.

Right... let's also have her learn how at least be ashamed or conceal herself enough that she'll have some sex appeal to her.

Enough that there'll be some noble who picks her up even if she can't return to the knight order.

I established my policies on Shikina's educational plan.

Chapter 269 – The Disappointing Elf and a Lie Detector (1)

Several days later, I decided to educate Shikina.

To be specific about what I taught her, there were the things you'd learn in elementary school like arithmetic and complex words, lessons about morals for when my brain's exhausted, and how to impersonate sensible speech and conduct.

Me teaching her mainly about feeling shy and not using vulgar words was very different subject matter from Japanese morals, but thanks to that, Shikina's even felt like she's come to be a proper person recently.

... As an aside, Meat was there for the morals lessons as well. It's just that her having to take those classes alone would've been too pitiful, it's not like I'm trying to say that Meat didn't know how to be embarrassed or anything. She's usually my body pillow though. Rei and Nerune were present for the arithmetic and language lessons!

Well, it happened on a certain day a while later.

"Kehma. Haven't you only been thinking about Shikina lately?"

"... Now that you say it like that... huh. I have."

"So you prefer upfront lewdness like that elf after all?"

"No way."

No way. At least, I shouldn't...?

It's true that I've been thinking about Shikina so much recently that it feels like I haven't been sleeping as much.

No, it's not just a feeling. My daily sleeping hours has definitely reduced between one and two hours.

"I'm going to die from lack of sleep if I don't do something."

"But you sleep eight hours a day as well as take naps? Honestly, isn't waking up early like you've been recently actually healthier?"

"Getting up... earlier? Hold up. I, I, have been waking up early...?"

“Yeah, to look after that elf.”

I was aghast.

For me, someone who would take going back to sleep over having three meals in a day... to wake up early? There's something wrong happening here.

Is it something Shikina did? No, it has to be her.

Did her blunt eroticism stimulate my desire, upsetting the balance between my three major desires and damage my sleep!?

“... Shikina is causing it?”

“Shouldn't you ask her if you want to know?”

I have to ask her straight up about it...

“I'm coming!”

“... Yeah.”

And it somehow turned into us having a duel.

If it was before, she would have been like [I will answer any of Master's questions! You want to know my three sizes? Measure them for me please, for I don't know them!] or something, but now she negotiated it into [I will answer you if you can defeat me in a duel!].

They grow up so quick. It's still annoying, though.

So because of that, Shikina and I are alone in the inn's backyard.

Meat and Setsuna wanted to spectate, but I refused them. The reason I gave was that I didn't want to expose my skills, but that's just part of the truth.

My movements are only done through the clothes golem, after all. It'd just be annoying if my movements always being the exact same were exposed. Setting aside Meat, I definitely don't want Setsuna to see.

By the way, Shikina's wearing clothes that are easy to move in, a gym uniform and bloomers she got from Setsuna.

... A blonde elf in bloomers... how should I put it? It's like we reached a level of cosplay that's never been done before.

“Ah, one second.”

“What is it?”

“If you win the duel, I'll cancel tomorrow's lessons. Think of it as a holiday.”

“What!? A holiday!?”

“But if I win, I’ll give you a bean paste roll as a freebie.”

“A bean paste roll!! ... W-why isn’t that if I win!?”

So that it’ll be easier for me to win, duh.

By the way, among all of the set meals and sweet rolls, the bean paste roll is Shikina’s favorite.

“And I’ll have you answer the question I asked.”

“Umumu, then if I win, I’ll be Master Kehma’s body pillow!”

“Refused. If you win, you only get the day off.”

“How bold... as expected of Master! Ah, but there’s no one here, are you intending to say this never happened?”

“Don’t worry, I keep my promises.”

Shikina held up her wooden sword. Seeing that, I held mine up... and left the rest to the clothes golem and its support.

Like that, I instantly defeated Shikina with Misha’s movements. An A-Rank adventurer **grappler’s** movements.

My sword? It was just for show. I tossed it after the first hit. Misha’s mimicked style is stronger.

“Stupid, did you think that I would use a sword since I was holding one!? Naive!”

“I-I lost...”

However, it’s only mimicking the way Misha moved, so even the feints are fixed. If I ever have a second duel with Setsuna, I’m sure that I’ll be defeated quickly enough. I should still be able to fight a few more times if they’re all instakills like this one though.

... I can basically only wreck someone that thoroughly on the first time they see the move.

“I’ll give you the bean paste roll along with the holiday tomorrow. Isn’t that great~?”

“Uuu, you doing that for me even though I lost makes me so happy...!”

When I patted Shikina’s head, she smiled in delight.

... She really has quit with most of her horrid behavior recently.

“So Master, what is it that you wanted to ask? My three sizes? Then from the top, eighty—”

“As soon as I let my guard down! No. And you actually know your own sizes?”

“Of course I do. It’s required for me to order armor.”

Come to think of it, this girl goes through armor like its nothing because of her sword, huh.

“What I want to as is, Shikina, what are you scheming?”

“Scheming...? I am aiming for the role of Master’s body pillow and not really anything else!”

“That so? Take a look at this then.”

As I said that, I took out a certain something.

It was a crystal ball small enough to fit in my hand with a bit of extra space. It was transparent right then, but it would glow red under certain conditions.

“This is... a magic tool that sees through lies.”

“Oh, you know of it?”

“I am a knight.”

Yes, it’s a lie-detection magic tool I bought from the catalog for 50,000 DP. By the way, each time it glows red from coming across a lie, it takes a magic stone that costs 50 DP.

Best of all, we don’t have any problems with our current income. At least not for using it to question Shikina.

“Don’t lie. If you lie, no bean paste roll for you.”

“What!? How cruel!”

“That’s a normal punishment for lying... actually, it’s going easy on you.”

“Mumumu... so, Master, now that you’ve taken out such an exquisite magic tool, what do you intend to ask!? Even if you ask me who took my first time, I am not yet able to answer!”

“As soon as I let my guard down, you go back to being... Whatever.”

I pushed a magic stone into the magic tool. Seeing the magic stone be swallowed up like that despite it being solid when I touch it is so weird.

“... Well, let’s confirm a few things first. Shikina, are you a man or a woman?”

“I am a woman.”

The crystal ball didn't shine. Yep, I know that. By the way, the annoying part is that it's impossible to tell what the person themselves recognizes as fact. For example, if Shikina's body was that of a man but her mind was a woman's, it wouldn't have lit up.

“Do you hold any ill will towards me?”

“None that I can think of... Please don't ask me something so cruel.”

It didn't light up there either? Her not having any is a good thing. However, it caused Shikina to look dejected.

“... Sorry, but this is necessary.”

“The crystal ball didn't light up, so it must be true. I understand and I will answer honestly, so please continue to ask me questions!”

By the way, it would glow if I said a lie right now, too. Its range of effect is five meters. It's possible to distinguish between who tells the lie by which part of it lights up.

“Did someone order you to come here?”

“Yes. My father also said that I should learn how to be dishonest from Master Kehma.”

It still didn't cause the ball to light up, but yeah, what was that? Father **also**?

“Did anyone else order you to?”

“The First Chivalric Order's Commander Sally-sama said that I should come learn from Master Keima too! She said that I can come back to the order once I learn from you!”

... Ah. That's suspicious.

Chapter 270 – The Disappointing Elf and a Lie Detector (2)

I decided to ask her about that.

“Let’s see, by Sally, are you talking about one of the party members of the Dungeon Breakers, the group lead by the White Goddess?”

“I am. Rather, I heard that Sally-sama and Kehma-sama are close friends.”

“Hahahah, we’re not close at all.”

“What about you drinking alcohol together?”

“... That didn’t happen.”

The crystal orb shined toward me.

Nice, it detected my lie. Just as I thought it would! Ahem.

... ... I put another magic stone into it. Haah, I wound up wasting one.

“Master, does this mean that I won’t be getting a bean paste roll now?”

“Nah, I’ll not count that.”

“That’s good then, but I never expected that Master and Sally-sama would be drinking buddies...”

“I wouldn’t say we’re *friends*, exactly.”

The light didn’t shine red towards me.

Now then, let’s reveal the truth.

“Alright then, I get that you aren’t holding any ill-will against me... so tell me about your situation in a bit more detail.”

“You understand that I hold no ill-will against you, yet you still wish to continue?”

“I just want to check the facts. Even if you aren’t malicious, there is the possibility of you being used... Do you have any skills that affect others’ minds or bodies?”

“Skills that effect others... I have [Body Enhancement]! I can apply it on others, but the effect is weakened.”

“Have you ever used it on me?”

“I have not.”

It didn't shine red. Hmm, guess that was the truth. Did she say it in a way that could have avoided something?

"Do you have no others?"

"Mmm, I do not..."

"Is it that you cannot think of some other skill?"

"I do not understand! At the very least, I only feel like doing something with Master Kehma!"

It didn't shine red. Wait, doing something? Huh?

"Master, I like you to the point that I would like to be your hug pillow... See? It didn't shine red. I'm telling the truth~"

Shikina grinned.

... And just as she said, the orb didn't shine at all. She's being serious?

"... Seriously? But I have Rokuko, I refuse."

"You have Kuroinu-dono as well, so isn't it alright so long as it's about being your hug pillow?"

"It's because Meat is my daughter!"

The crystal orb shone red. At me.

I-I guess calling my hug pillow my daughter was a bit much~?

Or perhaps I should have said my pet? Yep, that's it. I got caught~

"I don't think that would be a good thing if it were true."

"Kuh—! Pretend that didn't happen!"

"Master, I'll keep quiet about it if you test me out as your hug pillow for one night."

Woah, the heck? Did she just blackmail me?

... They grow up so fast...

I pretended to add another magic stone.

"You're getting better, but Shikina, that was just an act."

"What!? Then your lust toward Kuroinu-dono..."

"I have none."

"It didn't react?"

That was close... I really like Meat's legs, it definitely would've reacted if I

actually put another stone into it.

I stealthily deposited a magic stone into it from inside my sleeve by using the magic arm golem I had on.

“So to return to the topic at hand, please tell me more about the orders you received from Sally-san.”

“My orders were to learn [Underhandedness] and [Unfairness] from you, Master.”

Exactly as I’d heard before?

“Nothing else was said to you? Anything, like maybe a way for you to act around me?”

“Mmm... oh, come to think of it, she said that if you refused my begging, I should try coaxing you in various ways...”

“Coaxing me?”

“Yes... Master, I want you to make me your hug pillow. That way, I can hear everything you say.”

With that, Shikina looked at me with upturned eyes, her index finger placed on her lips and her eyebrows pressed closer into a pouting look as if to say [Won’t you, please?].

... This beautiful elf can have quite a bit of destructiveness to her if she puts her mind to it.

“I refuse. Rather, see? That’s their scheme...”

“Their scheme?”

“Yeah.”

This probably has Haku-san’s hand in it. So her goal is probably...

“A honey trap.” ¹

“Seduction to further one’s goals...? I was sent here for that purpose?”

Shikina was so surprised, her eyes opened wide.

Understandable. She was being used as someone else’s pawn. Moreover, it was her idol, the knights’ commander, doing it.

Following that, Shikina shut her eyes tight and quivered... guess it was a huge deal to her. I should comfort her, as her master—

“So in other words, this body of mine is useful for the Empire! I am so happy!”

Wow, she was just super happy.

The heck is with this girl, she’s even given her body to the Empire. Like, the orb didn’t shine at all, oi.

“But isn’t your chance at a honey trap wrecked now that it’s been exposed?”

“... Oh no!? Master, Master, could you please do something with your supreme might!?”

“Obviously not?”

“... W-Well, it’s still not for certain that my purpose here was for seduction. I’m sure that my main goal here is to learn from you, Master. Probably. I believe in it. Definitely!”

Aaand she’s back to trembling.

“... I will attempt to contact Sally-sama. I just remembered that I was given writing paper for times like this. I was originally told to use it when I had achieved sufficient results, though...”

Perfect for honey trap-use. Yep.

“Right. I don’t know what Sally-san was thinking about when she sent you, but for now I’ll assume it was for your education... I have been paid, after all.”

“Yes! Thank you in advance again, Master!”

“However, to prevent excessive contact between us, I will leave the majority of your education from here on to Ichika and Meat.”

“I would prefer for you to teach me yourself, Master...”

“Yeah... I’ll teach you in the afternoon between three and five, less than now.”

I should have a bit of my sleep time back now.

By the way, the village has clock golems that I arranged to be findable in the dungeon, they could be found here and there now. Unlike Sia, they don’t ring every hour. This means that the sound of ringing bells will never disrupt my sleep.

There’s also rare drop version of the watch golem, a pocket watch-type.

“Muu, alright then...”

“Well, that’s that... I’ll be getting back to my work now.”

“Sir! Do your best at your wor—... ah.”

The crystal orb shined red. At me. FFS. Now she knows I'm just going to sleep.

"... Do you plan on going to sleep? Then please use me!"

"I said no, you honey trapper. Now get back to your work in the inn."

Let's just assume that Shikina was sent here as a honey trapper from here on out.

... Shikina never told a single lie the whole way through, did she? I'll have to give her a bean paste roll and the day off.

Telling Shikina to head to the inn's reception desk and switch with Meat, I headed back to my room.

Now then, time to get back to sleep~